

Name: _____

Date: _____

Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963
Pre-Reading Activities & Discussions

Pre-Reading Questions:

1. Read the dedication at the beginning of the novel. What do you learn about the author's family? What does the author mean by his parents' gift of "roots" and "wings"? Do you agree that both are important?
2. Do you have any brothers and sisters? If so, has your relationship with your siblings been more or less the same, or has it changed over time? Do you think your relationship will be the same two years from now? Why do you feel this way?
3. Describe how you would feel if you were told your family was going on a long car trip—together.
4. Have you ever developed a friendship with someone who at first seemed very "different" from you? Comment on how friendship might develop between people from different backgrounds.
5. Suppose that someone warned you that doing something was dangerous. Would you want to do it or would you avoid the risk? What does this show about your attitude toward taking risks?
6. If death were a person, what do you think it would look like?
7. What do you know about attitudes towards black people during the 1960s? How much do you think these attitudes have changed?

Your Responses: